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Serial No. 09/769,382
Docket No. FF-0126US

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NOV 20 2006

REMARKS

Claims 5-38 are all of the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 17, 19, 20, 24, 35, 37 and 38 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 2 and 5-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freedman (U.S. Patent No. 4,839,829) in view of Mandler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,400; hereinafter "Mandler") and further in view of Ishii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,598,279).

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention, of exemplary claim 36, provides a printing pictures production system wherein the first terminal is connected to the production management apparatus by a network, the second terminal is connected to the first terminal and the production management apparatus by the network and the second terminal has an access right to authenticate the order information for at least one of the image data storing unit and the order information storing unit (see e.g., Application at Figure 1 and page 3, lines 16-19). This allows the claimed invention to provide a printing pictures production system capable of preventing monetary damages to shops due to customers failing to pay for services (see Application at page 2, lines 7-27).

II. THE PRIOR ART REFERENCES

The Examiner alleges that Ishii and Mandler would have been combined with

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Freemand to teach the claimed invention of claims 2 and 5-38. Applicants respectfully submit that the alleged combination of references does not teach or suggest (nor make obvious) each and every feature of the claimed invention.

That is, neither Freedman nor Mandler nor Ishii, nor any combination thereof, teaches or suggests *"wherein the first terminal is connected to the production management apparatus via a network, wherein the second terminal is connected to both the first terminal and the production management apparatus via the network, and wherein said second terminal has an access right to authenticate said order information for at least one of said image data storing unit and said order information storing unit"*, as recited in claims 17, 19, 20, 24 and 35-38.

As shown in Figure 1 of the Application, a production system includes a production management apparatus (e.g., 60; Applicants submit that reference numbers are merely provided for the convenience of the Examiner and are not meant to limit the scope of the claimed invention in any manner) (server), a first terminal (e.g., 20) (user terminal) and a second terminal (e.g., 40) (seller terminal). The first terminal is connected to the production management apparatus by a network, while the second terminal is connected to both the first terminal and the production management apparatus by the network.

The second terminal has an access right to authenticate the order information for at least one of an image data storing unit (e.g., 110), provided on the production management apparatus, and an order information storing unit (e.g., 100).

In accordance with the above features of the claimed invention, the credibility of an order before starting a production of the order is easily increased even if the charge for the service is paid later in person (e.g., see Application at page 3, lines 16-19).

The Examiner alleges that this feature of the claimed invention is taught by Freemand. The Examiner attempts to rely on column 7, lines 40-65 of Freemand to support his

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allegations. The Examiner, however, is clearly incorrect.

That is, nowhere in this passage (nor anywhere else for that matter) does Freemand teach or suggest a printing pictures production system wherein the first terminal is connected to the production management apparatus by a network, the second terminal is connected to the first terminal and the production management apparatus by the network and the second terminal has an access right to authenticate the order information for at least one of the image data storing unit and the order information storing unit.

Freemand merely discloses that order information of the user (the answer to the questions entered by the user) is stored in a memory 30 of the programmed computer 20, as shown in Figure 1a. This feature does not, however, correspond to a second terminal of the present invention, but corresponds to a first terminal of the present invention. Additionally, Freemand fails to teach or suggest a second terminal.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that Mandler and Ishii fail to make up the deficiencies of Freemand. Indeed, the Examiner does not even allege that Mandler or Ishii teaches or suggests a printing pictures production system wherein the first terminal is connected to the production management apparatus by a network, the second terminal is connected to the first terminal and the production management apparatus by the network and the second terminal has an access right to authenticate the order information for at least one of the image data storing unit and the order information storing unit.

Therefore, Applicants submit the alleged combination of references does not teach or suggest (nor make obvious) each and every feature of the claimed invention. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

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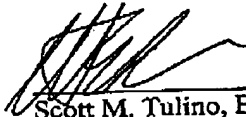
III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 5-38, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: November 20, 2006
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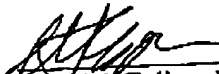
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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this paper via facsimile, to Group Art Unit 2625, at
(571) 273-8300, on November 20, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: November 20, 2006



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